

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A side member and bumper beam attaching structure, comprising:

a side member of a vehicle body which extends in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle body and which has a closed cross-sectioned end portion at a longitudinal end thereof;

a bracket which is attached to the side member from a front or rear of the vehicle body and which is fitted only into an inside of the closed cross-sectioned end portion and fixed to the side member, the bracket having a bumper abutment portion having an area substantially identical to an area of the closed cross-sectional end; and

a bumper beam attached to the bumper abutment portion of the bracket from the front or rear of the vehicle body.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ side member and bumper beam attaching structure, comprising: ~~as set forth in claim 1~~

a side member of a vehicle body which extends in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle body and which has a closed cross-sectional end portion at a longitudinal end thereof;

a bracket which is attached to the side member from a front or rear of the vehicle body and which is fitted only into an inside of

the closed cross-sectioned end portion and fixed to the side member; and

a bumper beam attached to the bracket from the front or rear of the vehicle body,

wherein the closed cross-sectioned end portion of the side member has an external shape which is similar to a shape defined by an inner surface of the cross-sectional shape thereof, and wherein a peripheral component is attached to the closed cross-sectioned end portion.

3. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ side member and bumper beam attaching structure, comprising: as set forth in claim 1

a side member of a vehicle body which extends in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle body and which has a closed cross-sectional end portion at a longitudinal end thereof;

a bracket which is attached to the side member from a front or rear of the vehicle body and which is fitted only into an inside of the closed cross-sectioned end portion and fixed to the side member; and

a bumper beam attached to the bracket from the front or rear of the vehicle body,

wherein the bracket has a guide bolt protruding outwardly in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle body, and

the bumper beam is attached to the bracket via the guide bolt.

4. (Original) The side member and bumper beam attaching structure as set forth in claim 3, wherein the bracket has a plurality of guide bolts; and

two recessed portions are formed between the guide bolts.

5. (Original) The side member and bumper beam attaching structure as set forth in claim 3, wherein the side member has an inner surface formed into an octagonal shape; and

the guide bolts are disposed in the vicinity of two pairs of confronting sides of the inner surface.

6. (Currently Amended) The side member and bumper beam attaching structure as set forth in claim 21, wherein the bracket is formed into the same shape as that of the closed cross-sectioned end portion of the side member so as to be fitted only into the inside of the closed cross-sectioned end portion for fixation to the side member.

7. (Original) The side member and bumper beam attaching structure as set forth in claim 2, wherein the peripheral component comprises a front cross member with a radiator being supported by the cross member.

8. (Original) The side member and bumper beam attaching structure as set forth in claim 2, wherein the peripheral component comprises a front cross member with a radiator being disposed between the cross member and an engine.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ side member and bumper beam attaching structure, comprising: as set forth in claim 1

a side member of a vehicle body which extends in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle body and which has a closed cross-sectional end portion at a longitudinal end thereof;

a bracket which is attached to the side member from a front or rear of the vehicle body and which is fitted only into an inside of the closed cross-sectioned end portion and fixed to the side member; and

a bumper beam attached to the bracket from the front or rear of the vehicle body,

wherein a recessed portion is provided vertically on an inner side of the side member.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ side member and bumper beam attaching structure, comprising: as set forth in claim 1

a side member of a vehicle body which extends in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle body and which has a closed cross-sectional end portion at a longitudinal end thereof;

a bracket which is attached to the side member from a front or rear of the vehicle body and which is fitted only into an inside of the closed cross-sectioned end portion and fixed to the side member; and

a bumper beam attached to the bracket from the front or rear of the vehicle body,

wherein a recessed portion is provided vertically on an outer side of the side member.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ side member and bumper beam attaching structure, comprising: as set forth in claim 1

a side member of a vehicle body which extends in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle body and which has a closed cross-sectional end portion at a longitudinal end thereof;

a bracket which is attached to the side member from a front or rear of the vehicle body and which is fitted only into an inside of the closed cross-sectioned end portion and fixed to the side member; and

a bumper beam attached to the bracket from the front or rear of the vehicle body,

wherein a recessed portion is provided vertically on inner and outer sides of the side member, respectively, the recessed portions so provided being disposed at positions which confront each other in a transverse direction of a vehicle.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto are two (2) replacement drawing sheets that comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The replacement drawings incorporate the following drawing changes:

Fig. 1 has been amended to incorporate an engine E and a radiator R; and

Fig. 2 has been amended to incorporate an engine E and a radiator R.

It is respectfully requested that the replacement drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.